I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States postal service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Alexandria, VA . 22313-1450 on:

S. CHRISTENSEN (Date of Signature)

**PATENT** TS-6196 (US)

## THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

in te application of	) Oroup Art Onit 3720
Wilhelmus Hubertus Paulus Maria Heijnen	) Examiner: ESSAMA OMGB.
Serial No. 9/724,079	) March 22, 2004
Filed NOVEMBER 28, 2000	)
PIPE CONNECTING METHOD	)
	<del></del>

**COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS** Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

## **RESPONSE**

The following amendment is in response to a Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed October 16, 2003. The Amendment to the Claims section of a response mailed on October 6, 2003 is to be replaced by the attached Amendment to the Claims section. Reconsideration of this application, and allowance of the claims in view of these amendments and remarks is respectfully requested.

RECEIVED

MAR 3 0 2004

**TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700** 

R:\LEGAL\DSC\TS6196US.AMD